

claim 26. Claims 27, 29, 32, and 75 have been amended to correct their dependence, now depending on claim 26. Additionally, new claims 76 and 77 (depending from claim 26) have been added based on previous claims 30 and 74, respectively.

(2) Claim 30 has been amended to explicitly include the limitations of claim 23 and to therefore put claim 30 in condition for allowance. The applicant respectfully submits that this amendment of claim 30 in no way changes the scope of coverage of claim 30. New claims 78-83 and 84-86 (depending from claim 30) have been added based on previous claims 24-29 and 32, 74, 75, respectively.

(3) Claim 74 has been amended to explicitly include the limitations of claim 23 and to therefore put claim 74 in condition for allowance. The applicant respectfully submits that this amendment of claim 74 in no way changes the scope of coverage of claim 74. New claims 87-94 and 95 (depending from claim 74) have been added based on previous claims 24-32 and 75, respectively.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over Takayama et al.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 4/24, 2001.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

4/24/01
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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